

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

22 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. FORD

SUBJECT : Group's Intentions and Objectives in Relationship to
General Ydigoras Fuentes

1. In the discussions which Mr. Smith held with [] in January, mention was made that the Group desired to utilize the services of Mr. Alfonso in order to establish contact with and explore the possibilities of improving the relationship between Ydigoras Fuentes and the Junta. It was Mr. Smith's impression at that time that [] held no objection to this activity. It is therefore requested that you endeavor to review the purpose of this activity in order to ensure that we keep ~~in step or rather that we keep~~ Ydigoras Fuentes in step with the Junta. You should review briefly with [] the facts of the case as they appear to the Group, primarily that Ydigoras Fuentes does represent a factor to consider in forthcoming events. Secondly, that the relationship between him and RUFUS, although signed in an agreement and on the surface appears to be cordial may not be entirely so. Thirdly, in order to ensure ultimate success of activities pertaining to Salvador it is believed essential that Ydigoras Fuentes' services be assured throughout the operation.

2. It is desired that you discuss the foregoing at random with [] in order to establish an understanding making certain that it is clear to him the Group has pledged its support to the Junta and its interest in Ydigoras Fuentes is only that which is considered essential to ensure ultimate victory. Although it may be expected that [] will feel assured that Rufus is capable of handling Ydigoras Fuentes and this may present a difficult problem for us, endeavor to handle it in such a manner that it fits in with our concept of compartmentalizing all operations. You might even go so far as to say that we will endeavor to keep [] fully informed of our operations and contacts with Ydigoras Fuentes and that we more than welcome his advice and suggestions. In this regard you should inform him that Alfonso has now established contact with Ydigoras and that the first meeting went off very satisfactorily with the mentioning of a certain international group which Alfonso represented as being interested in backing Ydigoras and that Ydigoras' reaction appears to have been very cooperative. He made such comments that the movement must come from within Guatemala and that outside help should only be supplementary, that they both must be present in order to ensure success. Ydigoras claims that he has the blessings of President Osorio. Apropos of this initial contact, Alfonso

has been requested to ascertain just what Ydigoras expects to get out of this himself, his ideas on a new government, and his attitudes toward cooperation with others. In particular, Alfonso has been requested to obtain Ydigoras' assets. define them much in the same manner as did Rufus. You may assure **E** that in order to make the most use of this information that it will be checked with him and Rufus and that the only thing the Group asks is that Rufus not admit knowledge at this time of this approach unless he is specifically requested for confirmation by Ydigoras. The reason for this at this particular time is that the Group feels that Ydigoras Fuentes is more apt to come forward to the Group with what he has, what his aspirations are, what his capabilities are and his general attitudes which should be fully ascertained before the step is taken to ensure him of a place in the Junta's plans. In this manner, Rufus will be able to keep aloof from these negotiations although fully cognizant of what is going on until such time as the Group might be able to effect a satisfactory bargaining position for the Junta. This point will require considerable discussion but it is desired from the standpoint of the Group that during the preliminary stage of this probing of Ydigoras that it not become involved with past relationships nor complications with Rufus in the field. The Group believes that by affording Ydigoras this opportunity to express himself, demonstrate his sincerity, and to give the Group a chance to check and verify his claims that the Junta will be in a better position to establish a firm understanding with Ydigoras.

3. Endeavor to assure **E** that we will not only keep him informed but will request his advice and guidance from time to time in order that we may arrive at a mutual understanding as soon as possible of the status and relationship of Ydigoras to the Junta. However, for the moment we prefer to proceed in the manner indicated above in order to be more certain before attempting to negotiate the question in its final stages.